

Embassy Statement on plans to supply UK armaments with depleted uranium to Ukraine

We consider the plans, officially confirmed by the UK Defence Ministry, to supply Ukraine ammunition with depleted uranium to be a step fraught with risks of further escalation of the conflict. UK weapons supplies to Kiev, especially of such a sensitive nature, would lead to aggravation of the situation and further the prospects of a mutually acceptable negotiated solution. They also run counter to norms of international law.

Radioactivity, high toxicity and carcinogenicity of such weapons are well-known. The consequences of using depleted uranium include the rise in oncological diseases among the population and colossal environmental damage to the Ukrainian territory where it is used. This is well-known to peaceful citizens of Serbia and Iraq who still suffer from such actions. This has hardly been forgotten by the UK leadership which was directly involved in those events.

Clearly the British have made the choice towards inflicting maximum damage and destruction to the population of the frontline regions. The assurances made by the UK leadership on its alleged readiness to assist in Ukraine's "post-conflict rehabilitation" are particularly cynical in this regard.

In general, this provides further evidence that Ukraine represents nothing more than testing ground for the UK in its stand-off with our country. We warn London against crossing another dangerous line in its maniacal desire to achieve "Russia's defeat".